

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 SS-15 SSO-00 PPTE-00 PA-02 PRS-01
USIE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 DODE-00 SY-05
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DRAFTED BY SCA - JOHN DE WITT
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: STATEMENT ON MOTOR TRAVEL IN SINALOA, MEXICO
FOR ACTION INS DUTY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
REFERENCE: DE WITT/HUDSON TELECON OF DECEMBER 31.

1. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE
CONCERNING THE RISKS TO AMERICAN TOURISTS OF MOTOR TRAVEL
IN SINALOA, MEXICO. PLEASE RELAY THIS RELEASE AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE TO ALL INS AND CUSTOMS OFFICES ON THE U.S.-
MEXICAN BORDER SO THAT USG OFFICIALS WILL HAVE AVAILABLE
THIS INFORMATION FOR AMERICAN TOURISTS CONTEMPLATING
MOTOR TRAVEL IN THE STATE OF SINALOA.

2. TEXT OF STATEMENT:
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"MOTOR TRAVEL IN STATE OF SINALOA.

"WHILE LARGE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS HAVE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE
VACATIONS IN MEXICO AND CAN EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY
THE TRADITIONAL MEXICAN HOSPITALITY, THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY

OF AMERICAN TOURISTS TRAVELING IN OR THROUGH THE STATE OF SINALOA IN WESTERN MEXICO.

"SINCE MAY 1976 THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INCIDENTS INVOLVING HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND VIOLENT ASSAULT OF AMERICAN TRAVELERS BY ARMED BANDITS MOSTLY ON HIGHWAY 15 NEAR THE CITY OF CULIACAN IN THE STATE OF SINALOA. THESE INCIDENTS INCLUDE THREE DEATHS IN THE PAST MONTH AND TWO MOTORISTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING. GENERALLY MOTORISTS HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL OF THEIR POSSESSIONS INCLUDING THEIR VEHICLES.

"THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES. THE OFFICIALS OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY CONVEYED TO UNITED STATES EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN MEXICO CITY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO INSTITUTE NEW MEASURES IMMEDIATELY TO ASSURE TOURISTS' SAFE AND PLEASANT TRAVEL' ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT THERE WILL BE A NEW AND UNIQUE SYSTEM OF TOURIST PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE BORDER AT NOGALES THROUGH HERMOSILLO TO MAZATLAN. THE FEATURES OF THIS SYSTEM INCLUDE HANDOUTS TO TOURISTS AT THE BORDER INDICATING APPROPRIATE PLACES TO STAY AND HOW TO CONTACT MEXICAN AUTHORITIES FOR ASSISTANCE, AND IMMEDIATE INCREASE OF THE PATROLLING 'GREEN ANGEL' TOURIST ASSISTANCE UNITS FROM 5 TO 15.
ROBINSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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